

IN HONOR OF SENATOR ALBERT  
STANLEY RODDA

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of former California State Senator Albert S. Rodda, who passed away on April 3, 2010 at the age of 97. He was a lifelong public servant whose example as a true leader will remain a guiding light for generations to come.

Albert Stanley Rodda was born on July 23, 1912 in Sacramento, California. A lifelong Sacramentan, Senator Rodda graduated from Sacramento High School in 1929, attended Stanford University, then returned to Sacramento to teach at Grant Union High School. After serving as a gunnery officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Senator Rodda once again returned to Sacramento, this time to teach at Sacramento Junior College, now known as Sacramento City College. He returned to Stanford and earned his Ph.D. in history and economics in 1951. Even after serving in the legislature, he continued his passion for education by teaching at California State University, Sacramento and by serving on the Los Rios Community College District Board of Trustees.

Dedicated to both public service and education, Senator Rodda was a civic leader throughout his life. Before being elected into the California State Senate in 1958, he served as president of the Local 31 of the California Federation of Teachers. While serving with the CFT, it became clear to him that teachers' rights were often ignored by administrators and school boards. After his election, Senator Rodda became a fierce proponent for education reform. During his 22 years as a legislator, he championed public education as chairman of both the Senate Education Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. He crafted legislation that provided necessary funding for public schools and created the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and Board of Trustees. He also drafted landmark legislation that gave teachers collective bargaining rights and established the Public Employment Relations Board.

While a steadfast Democrat, Senator Rodda was widely respected and made it a principle to work in a bipartisan manner with his fellow Senators. Because of this character trait he was often considered the choice alternative to end brewing legislative rivalries. He always made it a priority to thoughtfully study every piece of legislation he voted on, often taking his time, but always coming to a fair decision. He set the bar high and stands as an example that we all can look to for guidance.

Senator Rodda left his mark on Sacramento. His work can be seen at the Cal Expo, on Regional Transit and in Old Sacramento at the California State Railroad Museum. His lasting legacy may be a strong community college system, a system that he taught at and led. Today, the Los Rios Community College District and Sacramento City College give Sacramentans an opportunity to improve their lives through academic learning and career technical education.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize and honor the life of one of Sacramento's

greatest leaders. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the State of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Albert Stanley Rodda for his unwavering commitment to Sacramento, the State of California and our nation. Senator Rodda was humble, honest and thoughtful in all he did. He was a great man, and he will be missed.

**HONORING CAPTAIN GERALD  
VALENTA**

**HON. JOHN H. ADLER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Gerald B. Valenta of the Willingboro Police Department. Captain Valenta has been awarded the Career Recognition Award for his distinguished career in law enforcement. He will be recognized at the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office 22nd Annual PROCOPS Award Banquet. PROCOPS, or Prosecutor's Recognition of Citizens or Public Servants, recognizes members of law enforcement and civilians whose significant actions, bravery and concern for the well being of society have made Burlington County, NJ a safer place to live.

Captain Valenta has been a dedicated and loyal law enforcement officer for 32 years, proudly serving the citizens of Willingboro, NJ. The Willingboro Police Department expresses deep gratitude for his continued contributions to the Burlington County Law Enforcement Community.

As a nation, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Captain Valenta and to the men and women of the law enforcement community. Each day, these selfless individuals start their shifts with one goal in mind: to serve and to protect the citizens of their communities. The one constant they face is the uncertainty of what each day will bring, knowing all too well that in any situation, there is the potential for danger. Still, these everyday heroes honor the commitment they have made to the people they serve.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Captain Valenta for his honorable service to the Willingboro Police Department.

**HONORING CRESTON CHRISTIAN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to join with the past and present members of the Creston Christian Elementary School family to "Celebrate God's Faithfulness," and mark over 120 years of devotion to the education of young people in Grand Rapids. As a state senator, I had the pleasure of recognizing Creston Christian Elementary School for its first 100 years of service, and now, as their Representative in the United States Congress, I am delighted to again honor them for their tradition and success.

"By faithfulness we are collected and wound up into unity within ourselves, whereas we had

been scattered abroad in multiplicity." Saint Augustine eloquently captures the mission of Creston Christian Elementary School as they have worked to develop an inclusive community, believing that one body is made up of many parts. Through unity, Creston Christian has sought to learn from one another and grow closer to God.

On the eve of my retirement and Creston Christian's consolidation this fall to a new, comprehensive elementary school, it is not only a time of celebration, but also an occasion for remembrance. As we both close out one chapter and open a new one, I am reminded of God's faithfulness and that great things happen when we glorify Him and model our lives after His teachings. As Creston Christian joins with other schools in the area, I suspect the changes will be bittersweet for many families and staff members. I hope you will take the time to reflect on the many years of service provided by the dedicated staff and families connected to Creston Christian, and know that not only have you prepared many young people to make a living, but you have also taught them how to make a life—one that is focused on God and centered on Christ.

I am thankful for the many years of service so willingly given. I hope that Creston Christian has a joyous, memorable celebration, and may God's blessings continue to shine upon you.

**HONORING THE 20TH ANNUAL DC  
BLACK PRIDE CELEBRATION**

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2010*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 20th Annual DC Black Pride celebration, which will be held in Washington, DC on May 26–31.

The DC Black Pride celebration is a multiple-day festival that features music, dance, fashion shows, films, poetry slams, church services, community town hall meetings, a health and wellness expo, and much more. The DC Black Pride celebration is widely considered to be one of the world's preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation's capital from across the United States as well as Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

At the very first Black Pride, the DC Black Pride celebration fostered the beginning of the International Federation of Black Prides and the "Black Pride Movement," which now consist of forty Black Prides on three continents.

The DC Black Pride celebration has deep roots in the DC community, dating back to 1975. It grew out of the Club House's annual Memorial Day weekend celebration, called the Children's Hour. After the Club House closed in 1990, local individuals and groups kept the tradition alive by organizing the first DC Black Pride celebration on May 25, 1991, at Banneker Field. The celebration has grown from a few hundred people who attended that first festival to the thousands expected for the 2010 celebration.

Fittingly, the celebration's organizing body, Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., chose "20 Years Later, The Legacy Lives!" as the